

## CELEBRATED CASES

**Don Coughlin May Go on the Witness Stand.**

## DEPENDS ON THE MILKMAN MURDER.

The last of the celebrated Cronin suspects has been named. Don Coughlin, who was the first to be named, is now the only one left. He is a man of some prominence in the city, and his name is a great deal of trouble to the prosecution.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—In the Cronin murder trial the courtroom talk was all about Milkman William Mertes, whose prospective reappearance as a witness has introduced a new element into the case. The announcement of Milkman Mertes' intention to return proved a surprise to the defense. "Big Dan" himself was very much exercised over the news. He declared with much emphasis that Mertes committed rank perjury. Proof of this assertion, the big ex-detective said, was given by Detective Mike Crowe of the central station, to whom Mertes is declared to have acknowledged that he could not identify Coughlin. The testimony thus given by Detective Crowe occasioned his dismissal from the police department at the last trial, so it is said, but on representations alleged to have been made by Mr. W. S. Forrest of Coughlin's counsel the detective was reinstated.

Just what effect the forthcoming appearance of Mertes has had on the defense may be inferred from the expressed determination of counsel to put Coughlin on the stand as a witness. "Big Dan" declared to a reporter that he had never in his life seen the Cronin cottage and was ready at any time to go on the stand and say so to the jury. If counsel approve this proposition the appearance of "Big Dan" on the witness stand will prove one of the sensations of the trial. He was not a witness in the other case and counsel are considering the wisdom of calling him in his own behalf. They permitted the statement to be made that in case Milkman Mertes is sworn as a witness then the present disposition of counsel was to have Coughlin tell his story under oath to the jury. If Coughlin is called as a witness it is pretty safe to declare that he will be subjected to a cross-examination which will bring out many sensational disclosures. In fact, his appearance on the stand will, in all likelihood, be the event of the trial.

## THE PRENDERGAST TRIAL.

A Witness Refuses to Testify Unless Paid the Sum of \$2000.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Dr. H. E. Moyer, who was summoned as a witness for the defense in the Prendergast case, was on hand and by his refusal to testify created something of a sensation. He was called to the stand and about to be sworn by the clerk when he gained Judge Brennan's ear and told him of his determination not to testify unless compensated. The judge at once called counsel for both sides into a consultation, and it was explained by Dr. Moyer that his fee, if called upon for his opinion, would be \$2000 and unless it was forthcoming he would take advantage of a supreme court ruling and decline to testify. He was excused. Had Dr. Moyer been called by the state he would have been compelled to testify or suffer the consequences.

After "Ed" Marmole, a schoolmate of Prendergast, testified that at school the prisoner was "a pretty smart boy, just like the rest of us," Corporation Counsel Kraus was called. He told of Prendergast's visits to his office in search of the corporation counsel's position and described in detail his actions at the inquest over Mayor Harrison. He said that he considered that Prendergast realized the position he was in and knew he had done wrong. He did not think him insane.

## Trial of Murderer Craig.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—After much argument and a great fight on the part of the defense Judge Chetlain admitted as evidence the written confession made by George Craig that he had murdered Emma Werner. The confession was made to Inspector Kipley. The judge also admitted the plea of guilty which Craig made to the police justice just after he was arrested. The case is nearly through with as far as the witnesses are concerned. Craig outraged and murdered little Emma Werner about a year ago.

## Another Thug Killed.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—By the death of James Connor, alias Dick Henshaw, the police claim that another member of the Mortell-McGrath gang is disposed of. He was shot and killed about midnight while attempting to rob a house at 26 Maxwell street, occupied by Alfred and Michael Luey. Finding Henshaw in the house, Alfred Luey fired four shots at him, two taking effect, and the burglar died soon after at the county hospital.

## Held Up Mayor Swift's Daughter.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Miss Grace Swift, a daughter of Mayor George Swift, was held up on Lombard street, near Madison, and robbed of her pocketbook and a fur bonnet. The young lady was helpless in the hands of the ruffians and was badly choked by one of the men who drew the bonnet tightly about her neck. She is still suffering from nervous prostration as a result of the assault.

## Illinois Apportionment Bill.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—The Republicans of Illinois will test the constitutionality of the legislative apportionment bill now on the statute book. This was determined at a meeting of the Republican state central committee held at the Grand Pacific hotel. The suit will be brought in the supreme court of the state. George Hunt, late attorney general of Illinois, will appear on behalf of the Republican party. No definite time for filing the papers has been agreed on. This matter has been left to the judgment of Mr. Hunt and the executive committee of the state central committee.

## McClendon Found Mystery.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—The second murder jury, after a new investigation of the McClendon mystery, returned a verdict that the skeletons found in the yard were those of Alexander and Oscar McClendon. John A. McClendon is charged with their murder and John Martin is held guilty as accessory before the fact. These two men are held by the verdict to the grand jury.

## Prison Won by Edward Payson.

New York, Dec. 22.—As a result of the triangular battle, Edward Payson, who received 50,000 votes, and Thomas (Doc) Sullivan, who received 40,000 votes, were elected.

## FIRE IN A MINE AT MINONK.

Two Hundred Men in Deadly Peril, But All Escape Alive.

MINONK, Ill., Dec. 22.—Fire broke out in the Chicago and Minonk Coal Mining company's pit, a mile from this place. There were 200 men in the mine at the time, and so rapidly did the flames spread that they all had narrow escapes. Few were injured, the most serious case being that of George Erland, who caused the disaster by attempting to light a torch while standing near a can of kerosene.

The dry timbering of the mine made excellent fuel for the flames and the main shaft was ablaze in an instant. For a time it seemed as though all the men must perish. About 100 men escaped through the main shaft before it was impassable, leaving 200 men still in the mine.

There was a wild panic at the mouth of the shaft, and it was soon crowded with the wailing wives and children of the unfortunate miners. However, with the rapid use of fire apparatus the flames were sufficiently quenched to enable the escape of the imperiled men, and not a man was lost.

## ABBREVIATED TELEGRAMS.

Hereafter the unemployed will be required to earn their food at Chicago, by working on the streets.

William Pinkerton, the detective, is quoted as saying that he believes that Sommers, whom he recently arrested at San Francisco, was the leader of the gang of robbers which held up the train at Kessler, Ind., Sept. 12 last.

Gross irregularities amounting to millions of dollars are reported to have been discovered in connection with tobacco refunds in the New York custom house.

Mrs. S. R. Russell, a prominent society woman of St. Louis, Mo., has commenced suit for \$10,000 damages for breach of promise against Charles T. Pitts, a leading hardware merchant.

Hemlock of five Arctic towns which formerly had a population of from fifteen to twenty thousand have been discovered near Eddy, N. M.

Obituary: At New York, George A. Magoun, the banker, aged 52; Samuel Sinclair, formerly publisher of The Tribune, at Munroe, Ind., Mrs. Jane Cooley, aged 93. At Evanston, Ill., S. Vinson Farnham, of Denver, at Cedar Rapids, Ia., Conductor Charles C. Merrill, aged 43. At Virginia, Ill., John Mollen, aged 72. At Baltimore, Md., H. P. Lucas ("Pike"), a well-known sporting writer, aged 47. At Oakbrook, Wis., Mrs. Nancy Snyder, aged 72. At Jacksonville, Fla., Joseph Frank, aged 90.

Seth Crawford, 17 years old, colored, killed his stepfather, Billy Crawford, in Henry county, Ill., while the latter was beating his wife, the boy's mother.

Giles Blount, miner, of Minersville, Joseph Stanek, laborer, of Mine Hill, Pa., and Paul Alex, laborer, of Delaware, were drowned by a rush of water from an abandoned mine into the Oak Hill mine at Delaware, Pa.

Judge Ney, of the Delaware county (Pa.) district court, has refused to enjoin the board of supervisors from building a new court house, for which, at a recent special election, it was voted to use \$40,000 in the county treasury.

Ex-Governor Kirkwood, of Iowa, received messages of congratulation on his 80th birthday from friends in Des Moines and elsewhere.

Miss Annie D. Hallock, school teacher in Bridgeport, Conn., saved one boy and three men from drowning at the risk of her own life.

Miss Dr. Mary J. Henderson, convicted of criminal malpractice in Boston, Mass., was sentenced to eight years in the house of correction.

One hundred and ninety-seven plans for the Washington \$1,000,000 state capital at Olympia have been placed in competition. It is estimated that there are 80,000 persons out of work at New York.

Allen Consans, a colored condemned wife-murderer, at Knoxville, Tenn., admits killing five persons in Mexico while working on a railroad there six years ago. He has been hanged.

His Wife Has Disappeared.—SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich., Dec. 22.—Peter Pocoloni, of Dafer, in this county, has been arrested on suspicion of having murdered his wife. Mrs. Pocoloni mysteriously disappeared two weeks ago after a quarrel with her husband, and no trace of her has yet been found.

## MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

New York Financial, Dec. 22. Money on call easy. Offered at 10 1/4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 9 3/4 per cent. Sterling exchange dull, with actual business in bankers' bills at 67 1/2-68 1/4 for demand and 67 1/2-68 1/4 for sixty days; posted rates 67 1/2-68 1/4. Commercial bills 67 1/2-68 1/4.

Silver certificates, 60% bid; no sales; bar silver, 70; Mexican dollars, 50 1/2. United States bonds, 4% regular, 114 1/2; do 4 1/2, 114 1/2; do 5%, 114 1/2; Pacific 4% of 65, 115.

New York Grain and Produce, Dec. 22. Wheat—January, 66 1/2-66 3/4; May, 71 1/2-71 3/4. Rye—Nominal. Corn—March, 44 1/2-44 3/4. Oats—May, 25 1/2-25 3/4; track white, 25 1/2-25 3/4; track white western, 25 1/2-25 3/4. Pork—Bull, new mess, 112 1/2-113; family, 113-113 1/2; short clear, 114-114 1/2. Lard—Bull, prime western, 11 1/2-11 3/4.

Chicago Grain and Produce, Dec. 22. Following were the quotations on the Board of Trade today: Wheat—December, opened 67 1/2, closed 67 1/2; July, opened 67 1/2, closed 67 1/2; May, opened 67 1/2, closed 67 1/2. Corn—December, opened 25 1/2, closed 25 1/2; July, opened 25 1/2, closed 25 1/2; May, opened 25 1/2, closed 25 1/2. Oats—December, opened 23 1/2, closed 23 1/2; July, opened 23 1/2, closed 23 1/2; May, opened 23 1/2, closed 23 1/2. Rye—January, opened 71 1/2, closed 71 1/2; May, opened 71 1/2, closed 71 1/2. Pork—Bull, new mess, 112 1/2-113; family, 113-113 1/2; short clear, 114-114 1/2. Lard—Bull, prime western, 11 1/2-11 3/4.

Produce: Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 1/2-27 3/4; fancy dairy, 27 1/2-27 3/4; packing stock, 27 1/2-27 3/4. Eggs—Fresh, 22 1/2-22 3/4; per dozen, 22 1/2-22 3/4. Dried Potatoes—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Beans—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Peas—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Lentils—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Chickens—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Turkeys—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Ducks—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Geese—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Poultry—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Fish—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Meats—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Groceries—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4. Miscellaneous—Bull, 11 1/2-11 3/4; family, 11 1/2-11 3/4.

Chicago Live Stock, Dec. 22. Live stock: The prices at the Union Stock yards today ranged as follows: Cattle—Receipts for the day, 1,800; outside of a few sales of fair to good steers at \$4.50-5.00 trade was dull with the corner grades of steers selling lower.

Hogs—Receipts for the day, 10,000; market active, a trade firm; heavy, \$4.00-4.25; medium, \$3.75-4.00; light, \$3.50-3.75.

Sheep and Lambs—Receipts for the day, 1,000; market active, a trade firm; heavy, \$3.00-3.25; medium, \$2.75-3.00; light, \$2.50-2.75.

## THE CHURCH ALTAR.

A Clergyman Tells How to Handicraftly Decorate It.

Palms and other potted plants are usually used in the Christmas decoration of the church, but a much finer effect can be secured by grouping these at points away from the altar and decorating that with vines or evergreens. If holly is procurable, it can be massed about the altar and arranged along the chancel rail in a carefully artistic way and he made much more effective by the use of potted plants, as the latter always have a more or less formal air about them, in spite of all efforts to avoid it. If you have tall palms, place them at the back of the altar.

If evergreens and flowering plants are used, do not combine them, but keep the flowers to one side. The two do not harmonize. One "kills" the other to make use of the term. The best way to use evergreens is to make use of them in a more or less formal air about them, in spite of all efforts to avoid it. If you have tall palms, place them at the back of the altar.

A charming effect is produced by sprinkling the leaves of evergreen with meal and sitting powdered men over them. This will gladden the evening like frost.

If the supply of holly berries is limited, crystallized grapes will do as well as holly. There are varieties of shrubs growing in swampy places which bear scarlet fruit which makes a very satisfactory substitute for the holly. Throw vines over the altar, letting the ends of the branches trail on the floor at sides and front.

Among the dark green foliage—which should be washed before using, to bring out its glossy beauty—fasten the berries gathered in the swamp and use grasses among them if you choose. Some of the berries can be dipped in mucilage and dusted with mica and combined with the scarlet clusters. The frosty white and glowing scarlet harmonize well and contrast strongly and brighten the effect of each other. The rich green of the ivy will throw out the colors most effectively.

The long branches are easy to arrange satisfactorily. Simply throw them over the altar, and they seem to almost arrange themselves. A pure white cross can be placed on the altar, with sprays of ivy winding about it and trailing over its arms. If thought preferable, a cross or star made entirely of berries, either in their natural color or frosted, can be placed in front of the altar, against a background of ivy or evergreens. In this case I would not use clusters of berries at other points of the altar decoration, but confine the effect to the designs into which they are worked.—Rev. D. E. C.

## Christmas Charity.

"Good will toward men" is the all pervading sentiment of Christmastide. It is the time to bury unkind thoughts and petty jealousies. It is the season for loving deeds and kind remembrances, a day of general amnesty, a time to forgive and forget, and with a mantle of Christlike charity to cover the follies and frailties of our fellows.

The sentiment of common brotherhood should predominate. It is a sentiment that does not lessen the tender ties of kinship, but broadens and endures its possessor. The man who confines his Christmas charities to his own family circle misses the purest and holiest pleasures of the day.

The custom of giving Christmas presents is said to have originated in the oriental practice of bearing gifts on all pilgrimages and visits. Thus the wise men of the east laid gifts at the feet of the infant Christ. With us the custom has, or should have, a higher and nobler significance.

The act of charity or the testimonial of friendship and esteem should be entirely spontaneous. To bestow gifts with the hope of return or reward, or to propitiate friendship or interest, is to mar the noble sentiment of the gift. The principle of generosity should predominate. It is a sentiment that does not lessen the tender ties of kinship, but broadens and endures its possessor.

## One Australian Christmas.

A hot northerly wind, laden with sand and dust, had been blowing with great force for two days. The thermometer in the warmest part of the afternoon touched up to 120 in the shade, and even at night did not fall below 100. The small birds, finding but little shade in the straight leaved gum trees, came in under the covering of the wide verandas of the houses. The snakes were almost more dangerous at night than they were in the day. In fact, it was intensely hot weather. The sun rose on the Christmas morning without any appearance of a change.

The forenoon was spent in branding cattle in order that they might be released and watered, as detention in such heat much longer would probably cause some mortalities. In the meantime the dinner was in progress. The lady of the establishment had roasted the wild ducks and teal, prepared the green peas—potatoes were none—and boiled the plum pudding. At 3 o'clock we sat down in a long veranda to do our duty, notwithstanding the state of the weather, when we were not made cooler by having, in default of other beverage, to drink hot tea, which we sipped from large basins. The pudding was a great success and was the more appreciated because the whole of the ingredients had been brought 300 miles in bullock wagons at a cost of \$300 a ton and had run many risks of being stolen or lost on the road.

## The Christmas Box.

The origin of the term "Christmas box" as applied to donations for the poor is uncertain, though antiquarians generally seem to think that it was derived from the custom of placing money for masses to be said or sung on Christmas day—therefore "Christ mass"—in a box, which from this use was called a Christ mass box, a term gradually corrupted to Christmas box and finally applied to all money given as a Christmas gratuity.

## The Yule Feast.

Christmas is observed with great enthusiasm in the snowy northland of Sweden. The celebration proper extends over four days, beginning on the 24th of the month. A beautiful custom is that of raising a large sheet of grain on the top of a pole above the house for the wild birds to feast upon. It is said that no peasant will sit down to his Christmas dinner until the yule sheet is lifted in place for the birds in the snow outside.

Storax is an excellent washing powder. The women of Belgium and Holland are noted for their snowy linens. They attain this desired result by the use of borax—a handful to 10 gallons of water.

## The Rock Islands.

GRACE, ILL.

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